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THE CONDOR.



Cooper Ornithological Club.

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Santa Clara, California.

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Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 2! Just Out!

An Annotated List of the Land Birds of Santa Cruz Co., Cal., by RICHARD C. McGREGOR, embracing 139 species, with Faunal Description by WALTER K. FISHER. 21 pages; price 25 cents.

Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 1: "Birds of the Kotzebue Sound Region, Alaska," by Joseph Grinnell may also be had at the original price of 75 cents. This 80-page memoir of Arctic birds has attracted pronounced attention because of the excellence of its text. J. A. A. in a review in *The Auk* says "Mr. Grinnell's paper is thus a most valuable contribution to Alaskan ornithology." L. B. B. in *Bird-Lore* remarks: "In this paper Mr. Grinnell presents the most important contribution to the life-histories of Alaskan birds that has appeared in recent years."

Either Nos. 1 or 2 of the *Pacific Coast Avifauna* series will be mailed prepaid upon receipt of price, or both may be had for 80 cents, when ordered together. This is the opportune time in which to procure the first two publications of this series of Cooper Ornithological Club publications.

Address all correspondence, and make remittances payable to

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THE CONDOR.

Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club.

A BI-MONTHLY EXONENT OF CALIFORNIAN ORNITHOLOGY.

Vol. 3. No. 3.

Santa Clara, Cal., May-June, 1901.

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A Season With the Golden Eagles of Santa Clara Co., Cal.

BY ROLLO H. BECK, BERRYESSA, CAL.

With photographs by the author.

While reading this evening in the September-October CONDOR of the editor's wanderings among the birds, my thoughts instinctively wander back to memories of spring-time, and to happenings that befell me while in quest of the aeries of *Aquila chrysaetos*, familiarly known as the Golden Eagle. As the pocket-worn note-book opens what different scenes are recalled! The first note under 1900 was written in the shade of a tall old pine from which I had just descended with two fresh eggs, while the eagles sat on a fence a mile away across the canyon and enjoyed the magnificent scenery, not knowing of my presence.

Under date of March 8, my second entry, my thoughts are turned to a spot miles away. After climbing for hours up a steep mountain side surrounded by fog and wet clothes, the nest is found torn down, but as I slide and scramble down, with regrets for the long climb, back to the wagon, an eagle flies from a nest in a small sycamore in the bottom of the gulch but a few rods away. The hills are so steep, that a careful inspection is made with the aid of glasses at a distance of forty yards and the nest is seen to be lined with fresh leaves and ready for eggs. With high hopes I re-

turned to this nest a week later and found the bird sitting on a limb of a near-by oak contemplating the nest which still contained the fresh lining, but no eggs.

On the 9th of March with an early start my third nest was reached about noon. It was located forty feet up in a small oak, surrounded by a tangle of poison oak and other bushes. Owing to the steepness of the hill a good negative was obtained of the bird on the nest at a distance of 60 feet, by using the long-focus lens. This picture and set of two eggs, but partially recompense me for all the time and trouble necessary to obtain them. Had it been the eagle's picture instead of a Western Horned Owl's, which occupied the nest, the recompense would have been ample! But one gets used to these things after they happen every few days through the season.

At four o'clock that afternoon I sat eating my lunch a quarter of a mile below an eagle's nest built in a white oak on another steep hillside. This nest was 75 yards below the old nest which was situated in a lofty sycamore and visible for miles. While debating whether 'twas worth while to climb up to such an exposed nest, the male bird



PLATE I. NEST AND EGGS OF THE GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*). —

sailed over me and slowly up the hill, over the nest, and on out of sight. I followed with camera, climbers etc., immediately. After maneuvering up and down hill for the best site to plant the camera, the spot was selected. With the sky for a back-ground I determined to have a fine picture of the eagle leaving her nest. Setting the shutter for 1-25 of a second, I threw a rock and shouted at the bird on the nest, and waited expectantly. Though I had been in plain sight looking at her with the glasses while she laid low in the nest watching me, she seemed not to be frightened but stood up in the nest, silhouetted against the sky, shook herself thoroughly and sailed out across the canyon. The bulb was pressed and on developing the plate that evening no eagle was to be seen. This was disappointing after such an excellent chance, but we live and learn.

On the 12th of March a visit was made to a nest built last year in which one egg was hatched. As I was reasonably sure of a set of eggs, and as the nest was but a mile or so from the wagon road, the start was made with both cameras, a 4x5 'Midget' and a 5x7 'Premo'. I had had made especially for this event two iron braces to nail onto the limbs, with a slot for the camera screw, and had intended to take a picture of myself up the tree taking a picture of a set of eagle's eggs *in situ*. This would undoubtedly have been interesting but here again my plans balked. One of the camera screws had been left at home in the pocket of an old pair of pants.

Therefore but one camera could be used at a time. The result of the picture is seen in Plate I. About an hour was spent in the tree climbing up and down to pull aside limbs and twigs that obscured a full view of the eggs. Then it was necessary to take the camera down and climb back after the eggs. As it was only one o'clock I hied me over the hills and far away to another pair of birds which had caused me much

hard climbing in a rough canyon to find their nest. Two years ago as I lay resting, after losing sight of two pairs of birds, the female suddenly swooped by me up to her nest. Search as I would no nest was found. Last year one day about noon found me on the ridge high above an eagle slowly circling about. As the view was perfectly open I watched him and soon saw below him the female flying up the canyon from around a little point.

This confirmed my suspicions and a long, close search revealed finally an old dilapidated nest in an oak tree. After looking at it a few minutes, as a forlorn hope I climbed to it and was greatly astonished to find two eagles' eggs. This year I headed for the same nest, but before reaching it located a new nest in a pine tree one-quarter of a mile above it. This contained but one egg, slightly incubated. After gazing at it long and earnestly it was placed in my basket, as the possibility of getting another was not worth the time and hard work of going for it.

Slipping and sliding thro' sage brush, scrubby trees and poison oak the spot was finally selected as the best available from which the picture in plate II was taken. This shows fairly well the nature of the country where most of my nests are found, though it would be shown better were the two small pines not so much to the front. On my return journey a tree containing two nests, from each of which I had taken eggs in former seasons, was passed.

They were both deserted but the birds were seen sailing about their usual haunts. Bright and early the next morning my way led for miles up and down ridges and canyons with cameras loaded with plates and rosy anticipations of two more sets awaiting me. The first nest was reached about 12 o'clock. This was in an old pine 80 feet up, where two birds were hatched last year. That fact, in my estimation, augured favorably for this year. With camera over my shoulder, up I climbed

PLATE II. A DIFFICULT NEST, SHOWING THE RUGGED NATURE OF THE COUNTRY.





PLATE III. TYPICAL NEST OF THE GOLDEN EAGLE IN A PINE.

thirty feet to the first dead limb which contained colonies, large ones, of a black ant. Between the bites of the ants, the camera would slip around under me and impede my progress. My trip up to that nest and back to *terra firma* would have been immensely interesting to a disinterested observer seated a short distance from the tree. *My* sole interest lay in getting down as quickly as ants and camera would let me when I found no eggs in the deserted nest. After getting a picture of this nest and eating lunch the tramp was resumed and about three o'clock I was standing in a small oak tree looking down into my second nest, at two eggs which were finally collected after a hard climb.

This nest was also in a pine on another one of those steep hillsides which seem to be selected so often by the birds in this locality. Owing to brush, trees and slope of ground it was impossible to obtain a full-length view of any trees holding nests. Plate III shows a typical eagle's nest with typical background in the distance. The set on the 13th was taken from here. Last year one egg was laid and hatched in this nest. Just as I stopped to look at the nest for the last time this year at 50 yards distance, the male flew to it with a squirrel in his claws. He looked at the nest, called several times, looked earnestly across the canyon, and then, happening to turn around and see me, quickly took wing and sailed away.

On the 15th of March I mounted my wheel and started on a 75-mile ride to visit two nests discovered on a hunting trip a month before. Passing through a narrow valley and over a mountain range four pairs of birds were seen, one pair of which I determined to investigate on my return trip, which was done. It was high noon when investigations were commenced. The birds were circling about the usual place, the female having evidently just left the nest. Several inviting-looking gulches with but few trees lured me on around one hill after another. As I'd go over a

ridge and glance back there were the birds watching unconcernedly, a half-mile away. When my desire for the set of eggs had vanished under the hot sun and rough climbing, the wheel was mounted and the birds still circled about in their accustomed haunt. It was decidedly annoying, yet no more so than to climb to a nest the eagle had just left and find no eggs. This had been my luck the day before at the end of a long day's ride. Think of it; 75 miles and return by wheel to look into an old eagle's nest and the composition no different from one that could have been reached in an hour from home! The nest was all ready for eggs which would have been mine had the trip been delayed a week. I trust she hatched and reared her young successfully.

An hour before inspecting this nest another one was visited and yielded its two eggs to my basket. This nest was the kind to dream about,—a regular Taylor-Barlow situation, where you step on to a limb and gaze delightedly at the nest and the treasures contained therein, 35 feet up with limbs plentiful enough to serve as a ladder; what more could one want than to have the small boys of the neighborhood unacquainted with its whereabouts? But this 'long-felt-want' of Sargent's and other places is not felt here. Quite the contrary. Soon after collecting the set I passed one of the small boys on his way home from school and tackled him on the subject of eagles' nests. He had passed it a week before going up the ridge and had "seen the hen on the nest"! An incident of this character reconciles us to many of the shortcomings and disappointments we meet with so often, and keeps alive the spirit that draws us to the hills and to the mountains as each succeeding March comes round.

Fred M. Dille, the well-known Denver ornithologist, has removed to Altona, Boulder Co., Colo., which we trust will prove an inviting collecting field.

The Pacific Coast Yellowthroats.

By JOSEPH GRINNELL.

+ *Geothlypis trichas scirpicola*—new subspecies.

TULE' YELLOWTHROAT.

SUBSP. CHAR.—Similar to *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*, but brighter colored and larger throughout, with especially longer tail. Twenty-five males from the Pacific slope of Los Angeles County measure in inches: Wing, 2.18 (55 mm.) to 2.37 (60.3 mm.) averaging 2.25 (57 mm.); tail, 2.22 (56 mm.) to 2.52 (64 mm.) averaging 2.35 (60 mm.). Prevalent primary formula in unabraded specimens, 4-3-5-2-6-1-7-8 or 4-3-2-5-1-6-7-8.

TYPE—♂ ad.; No. 2217, Coll. J. G.; El Monte, Los Angeles County, California; March 20, 1897; Collected by J. Grinnell.

HABITAT—Permanently resident in the fresh-water tule beds of the southern coast district of California.

+ *Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*—new subspecies.

SALT MARSH YELLOWTHROAT.

SUBSP. CHAR.—Similar to *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*, but dorsally and laterally darker in color, and size much less. Thirteen males from the marshes of San Francisco Bay measure: Wing, 2.02 (51 mm.) to 2.15 (54.6 mm.) averaging 2.10 (53 mm.); tail, 2.08 (52.6 mm.) to 2.23 (56.6 mm.) averaging 2.16 (55 mm.). Prevalent primary formula in unabraded specimens, 4-3-2-5-1-6-7-8 or 3-4-2-5-1-6-7-8.

TYPE—♂ ad.; No. 4270, Coll. J. G.; Palo Alto, California; May 31, 1900; collected by J. Grinnell.

HABITAT—Permanently resident about the salt marshes of San Francisco Bay and vicinity.

REMARKS—A third form occurs abundantly in parts of California during the spring and fall migrations. It appears at Pasadena during the latter part of April, often after the resident yellow-throats are caring for nearly fledged young. This migratory race is evidently the form summering on the Pacific slope from Central California to British Columbia, and has been named *Geothlypis trichas arizela* by Oberholser (Auk XVI, July 1899, p. 257). The birds obtained at Pasadena in April, were found in the brush along the foothills far from water, and were in company with the Tolmie, Townsend, Calaveras and Pileolated Warblers, Warbling Vireos, Western Flycatchers and many other migrating species. The specimens secured are somewhat smaller than *scirpicola* and *occidentalis* and yet considerably larger than *sinuosa*, their average measurements being: Wing, 2.18 (55 mm.); tail, 2.28 (58 mm.). The wing is more pointed than in either of the others, the primary formula being 2-3-4-5-1-6-7-8 or 3-2-4-5-1-6-7-8. *Arizela*, therefore, is the migratory race, moving south in winter to Lower California, Sinaloa and Tepic (fide Oberholser, l. c.).

I find it difficult on account on the variations due to age and season to assign color characters to any of our Yellowthroats. *Scirpicola* is the brightest and deepest colored of all, the yellow of the under parts being more extended posteriorly and having a hint of an orange tint, while the upper parts are brighter brown or green according to age or wear; in these respects, as well as in size, showing a pronounced tendency toward *beldingi* of Lower California. *Occidentalis*, as judged from Arizona examples, is palest, while the diminutive *sinuosa* is decidedly the darkest. The width of the frontal black and vertical white bands varies in different individuals, but as a rule it is narrowest in *arizela* and *sinuosa*.

It is of interest to note the correspondence in characters of certain bird races occurring on the marshes of San Francisco Bay and on those of Southern California. The former locality produces the small *Melospiza melodia pusilla*, *Am-*

modramus sandwichensis bryanti and *Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*; while from the southern marshes come the larger *Melospiza melodia cooperi*, *Ammodramus sandwichensis beldingi* and *Geothlypis trichas scirpicola*. It is also notable that the races of *Geothlypis trichas* occurring on the Pacific Coast are to a remarkable degree paralleled by those of the Atlantic Coast (See Palmer, Auk XVII, July 1900, pp. 216-242.)

In bringing together the material on which this paper is based, I am indebted for the loan of specimens to Messrs. F. S. Daggett, H. S. Swarth, W. O. Emerson and T. J. Hoover.



Some Rare Birds in Los Angeles Co., Cal.

PHOEBE (*Sayornis phaebe*). On Feb. 14, 1901, I secured a male of this species near San Fernando. Not feeling certain as to its identity and having no specimens of my own with which to compare it, I sent it to Washington, where it was identified as *S. phaebe* by Dr. Chas. W. Richmond.

Slate-colored Sparrow. (*Passerella i. schistacea*). A female sparrow taken by myself at Millard's Canyon on Feb. 11, 1901 is identified, also by Dr. Richmond, as belonging to this subspecies. One other, also a female, taken by myself at Los Angeles and recorded by Grinnell in his 'List of Birds of the Pacific Slope of Los Angeles Co.' is I believe, the only one heretofore recorded from this part of the state. Another sparrow, a male, taken at Los Angeles Nov. 24, 1900 is described by the same authority as the last, as intermediate between *Passerella iliaca* and *P. i. schistacea*. This bird is rather sparsely spotted underneath, the throat and abdomen being immaculate, and the spots are of a brighter fox red than in the case of *P. i. schistacea* or *P. i. unalascensis*.

Flicker. (*Colaptes auratus*). I secured an adult female of this species at Los Angeles on Feb. 20, 1901. It was feeding in a pepper tree in company with several Red-shafted Flickers and was rather wild, in fact I had considerable difficulty in getting close enough to it to get a shot.

Besides these stragglers from the north and east, I have seen all through the past winter birds more or less com-

mon in the higher mountains, but rare or unknown at an altitude as low as the city of Los Angeles. On Nov. 14, 1900 I shot a female Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*); on Feb. 2, 1901 a female Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) and on Feb. 18 a male Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis*). All these birds were feeding in pepper trees and within 50 yards of the same place. For the last two months Cassin's Purple Finch (*Carpodacus cassini*) has been quite abundant, feeding in pepper and willow trees. Nearly all that I have seen have had the plumage of the lower parts badly stained and gummed together, being often nearly black on the throat and breast.

Last week, April 15, I saw a flock of about two dozen Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) feeding in some tall mustard, clinging to the top of the stems. I shot three and when I passed the spot several hours later the flock was still busily feeding. The three that I shot had their crops filled with plant lice, with which the wild mustard seed is covered. It struck me as rather an unusual diet for these birds. H. S. SWARTH.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 22, '01.



Harry R. Taylor made an interesting take on April 14 of White-tailed Kite $\frac{1}{2}$. We say "interesting," inasmuch as Mr. Taylor mentions that his pulse registered 140 beats per minute when he reached *terra firma*! Verily the spirit of olden days has not forsaken H. R. T!

Evolution in the Breeding Habits of the Fulvous Tree Duck.

FOR the preparation of this article I am indebted to Mr. H. Wanzer, chief engineer for Miller & Lux, and C. W. P. Smith, a local collector of some note, both of Los Banos, for my information on the breeding habits of this species from its first appearance in Merced county, until last season when I spent three months collecting in that locality.

Mr. Wanzer states that *Dendrocygna fulva* was first brought to his notice in June 1895, and that they have returned each subsequent season, arriving about the first of June, and that they did not seem to increase until about 1898, but since that time have increased with such rapidity that they now are common summer residents in the irrigated districts around Los Banos.

From time to time since 1895 pot-hunters have told wonderful stories of finding large numbers of eggs piled up on bunches of dead grass and on small knolls that rose above the water in the swamps. The number of eggs in these nests ranged from 30 to 100 or more, according to report, and in not a few cases the finder has brought the eggs with him in order to prove that what he said was true.

About the 15th of June 1896, Mr. Wanzer found a nest, if such it would be called, in Camp 13 swamp, containing 62 eggs. The eggs were placed on a pile of dead grass which had drifted together about four inches above the water, and looked as if someone had emptied them carefully out of a basket, there being no attempt at nest-building or concealment. Mr. Wanzer took twelve eggs, three of which are now in the collection of W. H. Hayes of Los Banos, and the other nine he placed under a hen, five of them hatching.

He states that the young were black with a white band around the neck. A pen was built for the purpose of watching them mature, but they all died

within a week. I saw quite a number of the young last season but failed to observe the white band of which Mr. Wanzer speaks. The young are very difficult to get as they always make for the tall grass at the edge of the water at the slightest noise. Those that I procured were partly feathered and probably too old to show any indication of the white about the neck.

I found from inquiry among local collectors and hunters that no one is positive of seeing any young of this species until the last two or three seasons, and I was unable to find anyone who had found one of these large clutches last season. Most of the hunters agree that the large clutches are becoming very rare, which goes to show that instead of colonizing and laying from 30 to 100 eggs in a set without any attempt at nest-building and just out of the water on floating vegetation similar to the coots, they are becoming civilized and are nesting similarly to other species of ducks.

There may be a few silurians that still persist in colonizing, but if so, they failed to come under my notice last season. While I have heard a great deal about the eggs being incubated by the heat generated from decaying vegetation, I have been unable to find anyone who is positive of any of these large clutches being incubated by this process, so I think I can safely say that it is a mistaken idea with regard to the Fulvous Tree Duck, from the fact that there is no authentic data of anyone seeing young of this species until the past few years. Also there was no perceptible increase in numbers until they had quit colonizing.

I collected five sets of eggs of this species last season and in every instance the nest was placed on dry ground and so well concealed that it would be very hard to find without flushing the old bird. I found this duck not a very close setter, it generally flying when I was 20 or 25 feet from the nest. I took my first set on

April 28, which is very early as they usually do not arrive before June 1, and it contained fifteen fresh eggs. The nest was placed in a bunch of wire grass fully 500 feet from water and was very well built of fine wire grass and lined with a few feathers (not down) apparently from the breast of the bird. This nest was very well concealed.

I took my second set on May 5, consisting of ten fresh eggs; third set May 6, containing seventeen eggs, slightly incubated; fourth set, May 13, containing fourteen fresh eggs, and the fifth set on May 14, containing eleven eggs, incubation advanced. All the nests were similar to the one found April 28, except the one on May 13 which contained no feathers, but all were well built, very well concealed and ranged from thirty to thirty-five feet from the water.

Mr. Smith informs me that he has found nests of this species in grainfields fully one-half mile from water, which goes farther to prove that we may look forward with no serious apprehension to the Fulvous Tree Duck becoming extinct, now that they are returning to the old and time-honored mode of incubation and have given up the idea of co-operative colonies.

Oakland, Cal. F. S. BARNHART.

* * *

Capture of a Floresi's Hummingbird at Haywards, Cal.

ON FEB. 20, 1901, the first return movement of bird-life from the south began at Haywards, Cal. About four o'clock in the afternoon of that day numberless hummingbirds began to buzz around a mass of flowering aloes, which bore long spikes of vermillion-colored flowers. I first noticed five male *Calypte anna* sucking the honey from the tube-like blossoms with apparent enjoyment, and they were presently joined by a male *Selasphorus allenii* which I shot.

A half hour later I saw what, at first

glance, seemed to be a hybrid—apparently a Rufous-like Anna's Hummingbird. The rufous-edged tail and under wing coverts showed a bird of which I knew nothing. Soon I had it in hand and was more puzzled than ever by its crimson, or rose-red helmet and throat patch. I at first took it to be *S. platycercus*, but upon comparison my specimen proved rich in coloring beyond any hummingbird I had ever collected, and subsequent examination proved the bird to be none other than the Floresi's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus floresii*).

It has been suggested that this spring capture of *S. floresii* in California would indicate that the species is a summer resident of some portion of the Pacific Coast, but no female of the species having yet been recorded, its breeding range remains to be yet determined. Mr. Robert Ridgway mentions that this species of hummingbird is so rare that only two known examples have been recorded, both males, and that the female, as also its range and breeding habits, are unknown.

Mr. Gould described the type specimen as having been found at Bolanos, Mexico, by Mr. Floresi who gave it to George Loddiges, Aug. 11, 1845, the specimen being now in his collection. My specimen corresponds fully with Mr. Ridgway's description and is a male in full adult plumage. No data is given with the specimen recorded by Mr. Walter E. Bryant in *Forest & Stream* (XXVI, p. 426), so we are in the dark as to what time of the year his specimen was taken in California.

W. OTTO EMERSON.

Haywards, Cal., March 4, 1901.

I. Report U. S. Nat. Museum, 1890, p. 341-313.



Forrest S. Hanford of Oakland, Cal. left April 30 for Carson City, Nevada., via. Placerville. Mr. Hanford will travel leisurely from the latter place to Carson City over the Lake Tahoe road, collecting enroute, and will join F. J. Steinmetz, the well-known Carson ornithologist, on a summer's outing.

Bird Notes from Placer County, Cal.

VARIED Thrush (*Hesperocichla nævia*). In the *Oologist* for January, 1901, Wm. L. Atkinson notes the occurrence and disposition of this bird as he finds it in Santa Clara, but the habits of the birds here are so different that I give my notes by way of comparison. These birds arrive here about the end of October and seeking the seclusion of the dark, heavily wooded canyons or hillsides, are rarely seen outside of them. I have occasionally seen and secured specimens in the alders or brush along water-courses but have never found them within 1500 yards of dwellings. In the wooded districts they may be found in small bands of six or more, finding their insect food usually among the fallen leaves and twigs. Later on in the spring they resort to the brushy side hills for manzanita blossoms and at such times leave their insect diet. Even in the darkest canyons they are shy and appear unused to the sight of human beings, peering at them curiously and flying away with harsh, mournful cries as if they were outcasts in a land of plenty. Their vocabulary is much less varied and not as musical as that of the Western Robin. The latest date I have recorded a specimen of the Varied Thrush is on March 23 of this year, when they became scarce and soon left.

California Thrasher. Having read a good deal about the vocal powers of *Harporrynchus redivivus*, with little in commendation of the bird's ability to imitate the songs of other birds, I would like to pronounce a few words in his favor. Though he cannot compete with *Mimus polyglottos* he, in a more fragmentary manner, does imitate parts of other birds' songs. Audubon says that when these birds are happy they sing at their best and although I have infrequently heard them singing in light snowstorms, still the sunny days of spring are the time to hear them. Among the common and most perfect

imitations of bird songs by the thrasher are "quare, quare, quare," the usual cawing note of *Aphelocoma californica*; the quirring note of *Sitta c. aculeata* and the cackling note of *Colaptes cafer*. Then at times I have heard the pleasant trill of *Chamaea fasciata*, imitated so perfectly that wrentits have replied to it similarly. The note of *Lophortyx c. vallicola* is imitated well, but for some reason very rarely, and the "kwee-kwee-kuk" of *Merula m. propinqua* makes one search the trees for the bird. The imitated notes are always woven into the thrasher's own song, for nearly every thrasher has an individual song or songs and the rapid succession of individual notes and imitated ones makes it difficult to separate and distinguish the one from the other, which may account partially for the few people who consider this bird to be an imitator.

American Pipit. The occurrence of *Anthus pensylvanicus* here is of very short duration, in the spring at least, for they arrived this year on February 26 and had passed on by March 21 and have not been seen since. Judging by their absence in previous years they are not very common in this section at any time, but on March 8 I secured an adult male out of a flock of 25 or more, after considerable trouble. They were feeding in summer-fallowed ground along the side of a small creek and kept flying ahead as we approached. They spent most of their time feeding in the bottom of the furrows, out of sight, usually walking rapidly. Their flight is undulatory and seemingly not strong.

JOHN J. WILLIAMS.

Applegate, Cal.

The *Wilson Bulletin* is now issued from Berwyn, Pa. and Frank L. Burns assumes editorial control. The *Bulletin* has grown into an excellent and substantial publication under the supervision of Professor Lynds Jones and if the announced policy of its new management is followed out, we bespeak for the magazine a still greater field of usefulness and influence.

Midwinter Birds at Barstow.

BY JOSEPH GRINNELL.

THE SIXTH of January, 1901, I spent at Barstow, a Santa Fe' Railroad Station on the Mojave Desert of southeastern California. The country in this vicinity is hilly and particularly barren of vegetation. All the birds observed were along the Mojave River, at this date merely a creek, which one could clear at a jump. Along this stream are stretches of alkali grass flats, with here and there thin willow patches and scattered cottonwoods. The day was very windy, and consequently rather unfavorable for collecting. Perhaps 175 birds were seen altogether during the six hours of active observation. These consisted of the following thirteen species.

1. *Accipiter velox*. Sharp-shinned Hawk.
One individual seen among the cottonwoods.
2. *Colaptes cafer collaris*. Red-shafted Flicker.
One individual,
3. *Sayornis saya*. Say Phoebe.
One individual flying along the River.
4. *Sturnella magna neglecta*. Western Meadowlark.
A single silent individual flushed from a grassy meadow by the River.
5. *Carpodacus mexicanus obscurus*. House Finch.

The House Finches were the most abundant of the birds at Barstow. They kept for the most part close about the buildings in the manner of English Sparrows. But a few were to be found in the reed patches of the River bottom. Both these and the Gambel Sparrows had probably been in this vicinity constantly for many weeks, for they were much blackened with coal smoke. Their general appearance from a distance was thus so different from the ordinary that I at first shot several when partly obscured among the brush, thinking them some unfamiliar species. The specimens secured are uniformly and evenly blackened over the whole plumage, the resulting coloration being quite odd. In a male House Finch the parts of the plumage normally red are a deep burnt carmine color. In an adult Gambel Sparrow, the anterior parts have a dark plumbeous caste. This sootiness of plumage has been previously observed in several species taken about smokey railroad towns. (Cf. McGREGOR, *Condor* II, Jan. 1900, p. 18). I am tempted to believe that the *Parus gambeli thayeri* (BIRTWELL, *Auk* XVIII, April 1901, p. 166), described from Albuquerque, is based on just such adventitious characters.

6. *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli*. Gambel Sparrow.
Fairly common in the brush of the River bottom.
7. *Anthus pensylvanicus*. American Pipit.
One individual at margin of the stream.
8. *Thryomanes bewickii drymæcetus*. [Vigors Wren].
The single specimen secured appears to be quite like birds from the San Joaquin-Sacramento Valley, and was evidently a winter straggler to this locality.

9. *Sitta carolinensis aculeata*. Slender-billed Nuthatch.

I was heedlessly striding along a desolate wash, making for a distant clump of bushes, when I was abruptly recalled to attentiveness by a succession of sonorous raps, startlingly plain even above the swish of the wind. Tracing this woodsy sound over into the next arroyo, I located the drummer, diligently pegging away at the stretched hide of a dessicated horse carcass. Here the forlorn bird was evidently trying to strip a meal from this impregnable cache of natural jerky. I

watched him awhile; but, pitying the poor Nuthatch lost in this land of starvation, I humanely secured him from further privation. Which even a tender-hearted Audubonist might not have done!

10. *Auriparus flaviceps*. Verdin.

Two specimens were obtained and three others seen, in each case keeping shyly to the cover of the thickest bushes. The only notes heard were faint attenuated ones, like the repeated "tsip, tsip" of the female Anna Hummingbird. Verdins' nests were numerous wherever there were thorny bushes, being situated from one to eight feet above the ground. There were sometimes three in a single bush. These nests are very durably constructed and must last many years, thus accounting for their abundance as compared with their builders. The walls consist of firmly interlaced twigs from the thorn bushes. The nests are flask shaped, resembling miniature cactus wren's nests, but fixed among the supporting branches with the opening rather more downwards than to the side,

11. *Regulus calendula*. Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

A lone ♀ obtained.

12. *Merula migratoria propinqua*. Western Robin.

Two individuals were flushed before sun-rise from the margin of the River.

13. *Sialia mexicana occidentalis*. Western Bluebird.

Two flocks, of 8 and 13 respectively, were noted flying down the valley high overhead.



Some Winter Notes From Marin County, Cal.

BY JOSEPH MAILLIARD, SAN GERONIMO, CAL.

THE PAST winter has been remarkably mild for this vicinity. We have had abundance of rain but very little cold weather. Instead of periods of frosty mornings, when the registering thermometer would show a minimum of any where between 12° and 22° day after day, there have been but few severe frosts and then only for two or three days at a time. This mildness seems to have affected the bird life to a considerable degree.

Some species which are seldom seen here in winter have been comparatively common. In my list of land birds of Marin County, (THE CONDOR II, No. 3) Thick-billed Sparrows, (*Passerella i. megarhyncha*), and Townsend's Solitaire, (*Myadestes townsendi*) are mentioned as occurring only in very cold winters. The past winter has proved an exception to this rule, as the former species was here in limited numbers and the latter was more numerous than ever before noted. This state of affairs may have been occasioned more by the

heavy snow-fall in the Sierras than by the mildness of the temperature in this locality.

The Western Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes v. montanus*), seems to have been quite common all along the coast this year and several small flocks were noted about here and in San Rafael. Golden-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus s. olivaceus*) have been very numerous and several specimens of each sex have been taken, whereas my last record of this species in midwinter was in 1895. Heretofore observation has led me to believe that most if not all, of the Ruby-crowned Kinglets, (*Regulus calendula*) wintering here were ♂ ♂, as I had never taken a ♀, but this winter has been an exception to this rule also, as the two sexes seem to have been about equally represented.

Owing to the fact that the San Geronimo Valley is usually much colder in winter and spring than the adjacent country on the eastern side of the compassing hills, many spring immigrants

appear on the eastern slope of this range some days before they are seen here. I have heard Lutescent Warblers (*Helminthophila c. lutescens*) for instance two miles east of my house, but over the range, a couple of weeks before hearing them here. This winter however has been so mild that there were practically no local differences in temperature. The buckeye trees leafed out on both sides of the range simultaneously which never happened before in my recollection. In consequence of these unusual conditions this spring the Lutescent Warblers appeared in numbers in this valley without having dallied on the other side of the divide. Before March 6 I had neither heard nor seen a single specimen between here and San Rafael, but on the morning of that day they were piping away merrily on all sides.

Usually they have seemed to drop in by twos and threes, becoming more numerous as spring advanced, but this year they came in a wave. My earliest record before this was on the east side of the range Feb. 15; San Geronimo March 1, of the same year, 1896. It is an open question as to whether the movements of these birds at this time depend upon the temperature itself or upon the food supply as affected by it. On January 26 of this year I noticed near my stable a strange sparrow among a flock of Zonotrichias and Juncos that feed around the buildings all winter. I could not identify it at the moment, but went at once to the house for a gun. On returning I saw through an open window another strange bird which could be nothing else than *Zonotrichia albicollis*. It was on a willow limb overhanging a bank, and too close to shoot even with the auxiliary, but fearing that it might be difficult to find again among the other species I aimed a little to one side and dropped it. Unfortunately it must have been only crippled as it utterly disappeared before I reached the bank down which it fell.

This was an adult bird in apparently

fine plumage. My disappointment was great and being needed elsewhere there was no time to search for the first stranger. However in the afternoon several visits were made to the stable and finally the capture was achieved. This proved to be another *Zonotrichia albicollis* in the first winter plumage and a new record for Marin county.

Another interesting take was that of a specimen of *Passerella* which approaches very closely to *iliaca* proper, having the back somewhat streaked, the wing coverts distinctly tipped with whitish and the breast and lower parts very much lighter than in *unalaschensis*. I also came upon another still lighter and nearer *iliaca*, while riding through some low brush. This one was not more than six feet from me, but escaped before I could back away far enough to shoot. I have looked for years for intermediates of this sort in this locality, but never found one before.

On Jan 16, a ♂ Ruddy Horned Lark (*Otocoris a. rubra*) was taken on top of our range of hills in open ground and a ♀ Short-eared Owl (*Asio accipitrinus*) in some low brush close by. The latter seemed very much out of place among rocks and chapparal on top of the hills as I had always associated this species with marshes and lowlands.

The California Thrasher, *Harporhynchus redivivus*, was mentioned in my list as having been heard but never seen in this county. On Feb. 27, last I distinctly and unmistakably heard one of these birds singing his best in the midst of a dense mass of chemisal on a steep hillside about three miles from my house, but was as heretofore unable to catch a glimpse of the songster. It will be interesting to see whether the mildness of the winter will have any effect upon the regular spring migrations later on.



R. B. Moran of San Luis Obispo, well known as an active ornithologist, has registered at Stanford University, whence THE CONDOR expects to hear from him.

The Guadalupe Wren.

WHAT may have been the zoological condition of Guadalupe Island at the time of its discovery will probably never be known, but that it was to the botanist and zoologist a spot of surpassing interest and strikingly different from the island of today cannot be disputed. It was in 1875, when visited for the first time by a naturalist, found to be wonderfully rich in both plant and animal life. Not only were the species largely peculiar to the island and quite different from their mainland representatives but botanical genera were found that have since become extinct. It is not unlikely that changes of importance had already taken place since the island became inhabited by man, but such changes must have been largely confined to the flora and it is improbable that any birds had been exterminated up to that time.

I have at the present writing no means of ascertaining when the domestic goat was introduced on the island but as it was placed on many of the coast islands by the early whalers it is not unlikely that this pest held sway on Guadalupe a half century or more before the richness of the flora and fauna was made known to the world by Dr. Edward Palmer in 1875. It is directly due to the despised Billy-goat that many interesting species of plants formerly abundant are now extinct, and also that one or more of the birds peculiar to the island has disappeared, and others are rapidly following.

When the island was first visited Dr. Palmer took two specimens of the Guadalupe Wren, *Thryothorus brevicaudus*. These were probably taken near the center of the island and it is not unreasonable to suppose that before the undergrowth was killed by the goats, the wrens were distributed over the top of the island in all suitable cover.

Ten years later Mr. W. E. Bryant

made an exhaustive survey of the island and found the wrens rare, the few that remained being confined to the northeast end of the island, where a growth of pines straggling along the sharp ridge of North Head afforded a habitat "of 60x300 ft." In this restricted area Mr. Bryant took seven specimens. Fearing the extermination of the species the balance of the colony was unmolested, but as the sheltering undergrowth was more and more constricted by the goats the birds were either blown from the island by violent gales that frequently sweep over it, or killed by cats which infest the entire island since their introduction at about the time of Dr. Palmer's visit in 1875. The last week in May, 1892, Mr. Clark P. Streator, and myself paid a visit of one day to the North Head.

Near the beach and directly below the pines Mr. Streator took a pair of wrens which are now in the collection of the Biological Survey. On the ridge near the spot where Bryant found them, I discovered a bird which was secured, and saw what may have been a second but was of doubtful identity. Since that date I have made several calls at Guadalupe, and though the entire top of the island was carefully searched by myself and several assistants for days at a time we never found any signs of the species which must now be classed among those that were.

The constant destruction of all low-growing vegetation by the goats still continues, not only consuming the nesting sites and shelters of Junco, Pipilo and all ground-nesting species but giving to the ever-watchful cat more favorable opportunities for destroying the few birds that are left. *Pipilo consobrinus* is now nearly or quite extinct and the juncos are surely but steadily becoming scarce. Since the goats kill all of the young trees as soon as they appear above ground, and the larger trees are dying, the outlook for the future flora and fauna is not bright.

Portland, Oregon A. W. ANTHONY.

Descriptions of Two New Species and Three New Subspecies of Birds From the Eastern Pacific, Collected by the Hopkins-Stanford Expedition to the Galapagos Islands.

BY EDMUND HELLER AND ROBERT E. SNODGRASS.

I. *Nesomimus melanotis dierythrus*, new subspecies.

Nesomimus melanotis (in part), Gould, Voy. *Beagle*, III, Birds, p. 62, 1841, (Chatham and James Islands, Galapagos); Ridgway, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIX, 1896, p. 489.

Nesomimus melanotis melanotis (in part), Rothschild and Hartert, Novitates Zoologicae, VI, 1899, p. 145.

Type.—adult male, No. 4565, Leland Stanford Junior University Museum; North Seymour Island (near Indefatigable Island) Galapagos Archipelago, April 27, 1899.

Range.—Indefatigable and Seymour Islands, Galapagos Archipelago.

Subspecific characters.—Nearest to *Nesomimus melanotis* (Gould) of James Island, but somewhat smaller in size; the bill smaller, the length of culmen averaging 22.6 mm., and measuring 23.7 mm. in the specimen with the largest bill, while in *N. m. melanotis* the average length of the culmen is 24.6 mm and our specimen with the longest bill has a culmen of 26 mm; color very similar to that of *N. m. melanotis*, but distinctly paler and of a more reddish-brown hue above, approaching in this respect the color of the Chatham Island form, *N. adamsi*.

Description of the Type.—Upper parts rather light, somewhat reddish-brown, paler and more decidedly reddish on rump. Feathers of fore half of head with less distinct pale edges. Feathers of back dark brown centrally, with light reddish-brown edgings. Hind neck with a mesially interrupted collar of the pale color of the sides. Wings dark brown, the feathers all edged and tipped with buffy-whitish, giving a very pale tone to the under surface of the wing. Upper surface of tail dark brown, lower surface paler brown; feathers with large quadrate whitish terminal spots on the inner webs, those of the outer pair largest—25 mm in length, on the other feathers gradually decreasing in size and distinctness to the middle pair on which they are entirely lacking. Lower parts dull, dirty whitish. Sides suffused with buff. A number of distinct elongate brown spots on sides and flanks. Feathers of leg barred crosswise with brown. Lores, subocular region and auriculars blackish. A white supraocular line reaching from back of the nostril to the supra-auricular region where it is considerably widened. Lower eyelid edged with white. Bill and feet, black. Length 204 mm., wing 109 mm., tail 106 mm., culmen 23.5 mm., tarsus 17 mm.

Sixteen specimens from the Seymour Islands and the neighboring part of Indefatigable Island, Galapagos Archipelago. Collected in April and May.

MEASUREMENTS OF ADULT SPECIMENS OF *Nesomimus melanotis dierythrus*.

L. S. J. Univ. Mus. No.	Sex	Length	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Maxilla from Nostril	Tarsus	Locality
4680	♂	241	103	101	23.5	16.5	35.	Indefatigable Island
4694	♂	250	108	103	23.7	17.	35.5	"
4664	♀	238	95	93	23.	15.	34.	"
4693	♀	243	103	103	22.	15.5	34.	"
4659			97	90	23.	16.	34.	"
4587	♂	238	110	106	22.7	16.	36.5	North Seymour Island
4565	♂	240	109	106	23.5	17.	35.5	"
4568	♂	242	113	108	23.	16.	34.7	"
4566	♀	229	102	107	22.	16.	34.	"
4563			110	113	23.5	15.5	36.	"
4620	♂	244	109	103	23.5	17.	36.	South Seymour Island
4621	♂	246	107	102	22.5	16.5	36.	"
4635	♂	228	104	95	22.5	15.5	35.5	"
4612	♀	238	104	96	21.5	15.	34.	"
4629	♀	232	103	94	22.	15.	34.	"
4646	♀	240	103	95	23.	15.5	35.	"
Averages		259	105	94	22.6	16.	35.	

2. ⁺*Geospiza scandens rothschildi*, new subspecies.

Cactornis assimilis, Scl. and Sal., Proc. Zool. Soc., 1870, p. 323; Sal., Trans. Zool. Soc., IX 1876, p. 486; Sharpe, Cat. Bird Brit. Mus., XII, 1888, p. 18.

Geospiza assimilis, Ridg. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIX, 1896, p. 537.

Geospiza scandens, Roth. and Hart. Novit. Zool., VI, 1899, p. 165 (part).

Type.—Immature female, No. 5122, Leland Stanford Junior University Museum; Bindloe Island, Galapagos Archipelago, June 21, 1899.

Range.—Bindloe Island, Galapagos Archipelago.

Subspecific characters.—Much like *G. abingdoni* but the bill considerably thicker, the basal depth equal to or greater than length of gony.

Only immature specimens are in the collection but these differ so much from specimens of *G. abingdoni* of the same age that it is very probable that adults will be found to differ correspondingly. Some of the thickest billed specimens are nearly indistinguishable from small billed specimens of ⁺*G. conirostris propinqua* of Tower Island. Some are close to *G. brevirostris*.

MEASUREMENTS OF *Geospiza scandens rothschildi*.

L. S. J. U. Mus. No.	Locality	Sex	Length	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Gony	Basal Width of Bill	Basal Depth of Bill	Maxilla from Tar- sus Nostril	Basal Width of Bill
5146	Bindloe Id.	im ♂	148	72.	44.5	21.5	12.	9.5	12.	15.	20.
5237	"	" ♂	141	70.5	41.	20.	11.5	8.5	11.5	14.	20.
5145	"	" ♂	147	69.	42.5	21.5	12.	9.	11.5	15.5	23.
5722	"	" ♀	152	70.5	44.	19.5	11.	9.	11.5	14.	21.7
5173	"	" ♀	140	66.5	43.	20.5	10.5	8.5	11.	14.5	21.5
5175	"	" ♀	145	71.	40.	20.	11.	8.	11.5	14.	22.
5163	"	" ♀	144	65.	38.	20.	11.	8.	10.5	14.	20.5

3. ⁺*Geospiza fortis platyrhyncha*, new subspecies.

Type.—Adult male, No. 5150 Leland Stanford Junior University Museum; Iguana Cove, Albemarle Island, Galapagos Archipelago, June 7, 1899.

Range.—Iguana Cove, Albemarle Island, Galapagos Archipelago.

Subspecific characters.—Similar in size and proportions to *G. fortis dubia* but mandible considerably wider at the base, 12 mm. or greater.

The three adult black males in the collection differ from adults of ⁺*G. fortis dubia* in their wider mandibles but are otherwise indistinguishable.

MEASUREMENTS OF *Geospiza fortis platyrhyncha*.

L. S. J. U. Mus. No.	Locality	Sex	Length	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Gony	Basal Width of Bill	Basal Depth of Bill	Maxilla from Tar- sus Nostril	Basal Width of Bill
5150	Iguana Cove, Alb. Id.	ad ♂	147	75.	46.	18.5	9.	12.	16	13	22.
4355	" "	" ♂	151	77.5	44.	18.	9.5	12.5	15	13	23.
4351	" "	" ♂	148	76.	46.	18.5	9.	12.	16	13	22.
" "	" "	" ♀	142	74.5	43.5	18.5	9.7	12.	16	13	22.
" "	" "	" ♀	71.	45.	18.	9.7	12.	15	13	21.5	

4. ⁺*Sula nesiotis*, new species.

Sula brewsteri, Roth. and Hart. Novit. Zool., VI, 1899, p. 179. (11°, 20', N; 110°, W.)

Type.—Adult male, No. 4271, Leland Stanford Junior University Museum; Clipperton Island, Nov. 23, 1898.

Range.—Clipperton Island and adjacent waters.

Specific characters.—Similar to *S. brewsteri* but brownish of head and upper parts considerably paler; bill and feet greenish; proportions averaging somewhat greater.

Description of the Type.—Adult male, Upper parts, excepting head and neck, light sooty-brown, deepening on the primaries into purplish-brown; sides of chest and under wing coverts, excepting an oblique white bar across the middle, brown like the dorsum; head above and on sides white, with a yellowish tinge, becoming ashy or light drab-gray below and posteriorly, gradu-

ally shading into smoky-drab on the chest and hind neck; the color of the chest ending abruptly against the white of the belly. The under parts posterior to fore-breast and axillaries and an oblique bar across middle of under wing coverts white. Coloration of naked parts in life: bill yellowish-green, becoming more greenish basally; gular sac dark pea-green; bare skin before eye purplish-violet; feet pea-green. Length 720 mm., wing 384 mm., tail 200 mm., culmen 94 mm., depth of bill 32 mm., tarsus 46, middle toe 80 mm.

Adult female like the male in coloration, excepting the head and neck which are uniform with the back in color, the feathers bordering the naked parts of the head slightly grayer. Size somewhat larger than in the male.

Compared with specimens of *S. brewsteri* from Cocos Island, the Clipperton specimens are conspicuously lighter with green bills and with feet greenish rather than yellowish. This is a common bird on Clipperton Island where it breeds in company with *S. cyanops* on the flat expanse of the coral beach bordering the lagoon.

MEASUREMENTS OF *Sula nesiotis*.

L. S. J. U. Mus. No.	Locality	Sex	Length	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen	Basal Depth of Bill	Middle Toe
4271	Clipperton Id.	ad ♂	720	384	200	46	94	34	80
4279	"	" ♀	800	416	220	48	98	33	86
4275	"	" ♀	840	404	190	49	102	37	89
4272	"	" ♀	800	405	220	45	101	35	86

5. ⁺ *Micranous diamesus*, new species.

Type—Adult male; No. 5079 Leland Stanford Junior University Museum; Cocos Island, July 1, 1899.

Range—Cocos and Clipperton Islands, tropical eastern Pacific.

Specific characters.—Near *Micranous hawaiiensis* Rothschild of the Hawaiian Islands, but differs from this species in being darker on the shoulders, on the lower part and sides of the neck and on the sides of the head, and in having a more slender and shorter bill and shorter tarsus.

Description of the Type—Forehead and top of head almost pure white, back part of head and nape with a plumbeous tinge. Back of neck plumbeous, darkening into dark plumbeous on shoulders and then into brown on the mantle. Rest of upper parts, except upper tail-coverts and tail, dark dusky brown; outer webs of outer primaries sooty-brown, almost black. Upper tail-coverts and tail, dark plumbeous-gray. Under parts dark dusky-brown, darkest on lower breast and on belly. Lower tail-coverts somewhat lighter plumbeous-brown. Tail below same color as above. Lores and line extending from lores over eye to middle of posterior side of eye, black, a small white spot in this line above posterior part of eye. Lower two-thirds of lower eyelid white. Cheeks deep dark plumbeous, pale color of back of head and neck scarcely extending upon lateral parts. Length 388 mm., wing 224 mm., tail 130 mm., culmen 45.3 mm. tarsus 21.5 mm.

Immature male.—Top of head pure white, with a few brown feathers posteriorly. Outer webs of outer primaries blackish-brown, that of the first almost black. Lores, supraocular line and cheeks, dusky brown. All other parts pure dark brown, but with no dusky tinge except on the lower part of the throat.

Adult female.—Does not differ from the adult male.

In *Micranous hawaiiensis* the pale slaty plumbeous color of the back of the head and neck reaches so far ventrally on the sides of the head, neck and even on the upper part of the breast, that there is distinctly marked off on the chin and throat a median longitudinal area of dark plumbeous-brown well defined on each side against the paler lateral parts.

Micranous diamesus is intermediate between *M. leucocapillus* Gould of the Caribbean Sea, Atlantic and Indian Oceans and the western Pacific, and *M. hawaiiensis* Rothschild of the Hawaiian Islands in both color of the plumage and the size of bill.

One adult male, four adult females and two immature females from Cocos Island

in July, and one immature male and two immature females from Clipperton Island in November.

We are indebted to Mr. R. C. McGregor for the loan of an immature male of *Micranous hawaiiensis*, and to Mr. Wm. Alauhon Bryan for an adult male of the same species from the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum of Honolulu.

MEASUREMENTS OF *Micranous diamesus*.

L. S. J. U. Mus. No.	Sex	Length	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Depth of Bill at Base	Mrxilla Gonyx		Tarsus	Middle Toe	Locality
							from Nostril				
5079	ad ♂	388	224	130	45.3	8.7	33	30	21.5	28.3	Cocos Island
5015	" ♀	360	241	131	43.	8.3	32	28	21.	26.5	"
5205	" ♀	372	233	130	43.5	9.	31	28	20.	26.7	"
5111	" ♀	356	223	121	43.	8.7	31.5	29	21.	25.7	"
5026	" ♀	370	231	129	43.5	8.	32.	30	21.	26.5	"
Averages		369	230	128	43.6	8.4	32.	29	21.	26.9	"
5249	im ♀		233	123	43.5	9.	31.	28	21.	27.	"
5036	" ♀		230	120	45.5	8.3	31.5	30	21.	29.5	"
3825	" ♀	360	223	121	44.	8.7	31.5	28	20.5	27.	Clipperton Id
3819	" ♀	368	225	121	43.5	8.5	32.	30	21.	27.	"

MEASUREMENTS OF *Micranous hawaiiensis*.

ad ♂	382	225	125	38.5	8.	28.	28	21.5	24.	Hawaiian Ids
im ♂	210	118	38.	7.5	25.	25	20.	24.	"	

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Two Years With Mexican Birds. II. In the Haunts of the Trogan.

BY E. H. SKINNER.

EARLY one morning I took a heavy machete and a revolver, the machete to cut my way through the heavy underbrush and tangled hanging vines, and the revolver because a gun is carried with difficulty in the woods where one has to do as much crawling as walking. Collecting in the tropics is not exactly easy, taking mosquitos, temperature and a few other pleasant things into consideration.

Well, I started out; the morning was lovely, a trifle warm to be sure for there was not a cloud in sight and not a breath of air stirring. The way to the woods lay through the cafetal where Gray's Robin (*Merula grayi*), the most beautiful of Mexican songsters, was everywhere present, filling the air with its merry song, and Giraud's Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes texensis*) were squabbling in different parts of the plantation.

We are soon in the woods, however, where the birds are more sedate. Toucans, motmots and trogons are the interesting birds, on account of their plum-

age I suppose, for they do little but sit in the shade and meditate. The trogon family, including several species, are the loveliest birds to be found in Central America. They are graceful in form, retiring in habits, and for diversity and brightness of plumage are not equalled by any other birds of their range.

Trogons are found over all the country but more particularly in the highlands where their pleasant note can be heard at any time in the woods, and where they usually remain, rarely venturing into the open, because their slow flight would make them an easy prey to the raptore. *Trogon caligatus*, the commonest variety in the vicinity of the plantation, is a model representative of his genus, with his bright changeable colors. The remarkable point about him is the smallness and weakness of his tarsi and toes, which would scarcely answer for a sparrow.

I had not taken any eggs of this species up to the time of the present trip and knew practically nothing of

their nesting habits, so I nearly wrecked my first set which I came upon by chance. We were walking along slowly and upon passing a decayed stump I struck idly at a rough opening in the side with my machete. It was a rude hole which looked as if it might have served a woodpecker sometime in the remote past, so my surprise may be imagined. The whole front of the excavation crumbled away under the blow revealing the two pearly white eggs on the verge of the nest.

The bird had not been seen to leave the nest, so I replaced the eggs carefully and fitted back the pieces which had been struck from the front of the nest, holding them in place by a piece of vine which I wrapped about the stump several times. A few days later by approaching the nest cautiously the bird flushed, proving to be *Trogon caligatus*. She had again settled down in her wrecked home as though nothing had happened. This was April 25, 1898; eggs fresh.

Another set of two eggs was found May 29, 1898 with embryos begun, near the edge of the woods in a decayed stump fifteen feet up. Another set of two eggs on May 12, 1899, incubation fresh; opening to nest, eight feet up. The nest is always a rough hollow in the most decayed or crumbling, punky stumps. The hollow is usually six or eight inches in diameter and is but a few inches lower than the opening, with no lining.

The Mexican name of the trogon is *Cabo*, which sounds little like his call, consisting of two notes, the first a little higher than the second. It may be imitated by a low whistle, and sounds but little lower when one is 150 yards from the bird than when under the tree from which the sound proceeds.

When one is near to the bird, the sound seems to come first from one direction and then another, and the bird may readily be thought to be fifty feet away instead of at hand. The trogon's nest was the last find of the day, and at

about 2 o'clock the inevitable thunder-storm came up, sending us back to the plantation, a water-soaked party of collectors.



Song of *Zonotrichia coronata*.

IN REPLY to Mr. Lyman Belding's query in THE CONDOR (Vol. 3, No. 2.), I can state positively that the Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*) is not an altogether silent bird in this neighborhood during its winter residence. Its song, if it may be dignified by such a title, consists of three notes given in a descending scale with intervals of thirds, or to express it differently *sol, mi, do*. The sound is that of a very high whistle, in fact so high that in imitating the bird it is necessary for me to make it with the tongue against the roof of the mouth, the lips apart. The notes are given very softly and yet are penetrating.

I have been accustomed to hearing this song since my boyhood, and yet until quite recently ascribed it to Gambel's Sparrow (*Z. leucophrys gambeli*). One evening at the California Academy of Sciences Mr. Chas. A. Keeler imitated this song and claimed that it was that of *Z. coronata*. A discussion on this point led me to observe these two species very closely during the past winter, and I now acknowledge that Mr. Keeler was right and I wrong.

The song is given when the bird is either on the top of a low bush or within the bush near the outside. As the two species invariably flock together during their residence in this neighborhood, and as it very difficult to distinguish the immature *gambeli* from *coronata* at any distance, when both kinds are banded together, especially when partially hidden by foliage, a great deal of watching was necessary to enable me to establish the identity of the songster. Many an attempt failed through my not being able even to discover which individual of the flock was

singing; as any near approach would not only mean the cessation of the song, but the disappearance of the birds into the bushes.

At last, however, perseverance conquered, and on two or three occasions I managed, with the aid of good field glasses, to discover the individual and to identify it with absolute certainty. This song only seems to be given in certain states of the weather, notably before or after a rain, and is repeated again and again, often being taken up by other birds of the same species within call. People living in country towns often call this the rain-bird, and have asked me what bird it was that made these sounds. They were familiar with the song and associated it with rain, but had never discovered the author of it.

JOSEPH MAILLIARD.

San Geronimo, Marin Co., Cal.

In reply to Mr. Belding's query in the March CONDOR (p. 44) concerning the song of *Zonotrichia coronata* in California, I would state that the species sings regularly and frequently about Palo Alto. This spring I have noticed the song particularly, and on April 14 Mr. Barlow and myself heard the characteristic notes at Sargent, Santa Clara Co. Mr. Grinnell tells me the song is indistinguishable from that used during the breeding season in the Kowak Valley, Alaska. The bird says, it is suggested, "Oh dear—me!"

W. K. FISHER.

Stanford University, Cal.

The captive Californian Condor owned by Frank H. Holmes of Berryessa, Cal. and known familiarly as 'Ben Butler' died recently from some undetermined cause. This condor had been in captivity for several years, having been secured when a nestling, and many Coast ornithologists had journeyed to Mr. Holmes' aviary at various times to watch the great bird, which captivity had subdued into a confiding pet.

Summer School of Zoology at Pacific Grove.

The tenth session of the Hopkins Seaside Laboratory will begin Monday, June 10, at Pacific Grove, Cal, the course of instruction continuing six weeks and closing July 20. The following courses will be offered during the term: 1. A Course in General Zoology by Prof. Geo. C. Price of Stanford University; 2. An Elementary Course in Botany by Prof. Geo. J. Pierce; 3. An Advanced Course on the Structure and Physiology of the Algae by Prof. Pierce; 4. A Course in Embryology by Prof. Price; 5. A Course in Comparative Morphology and Histology of the Nervous System and Sense Organs by Prof. Frank M. McFarland; 6. An Advanced Course in Zoology by Prof. McFarland; 7. General Ornithology by Joseph Grinnell.

Ornithologist of the coast will be particularly interested in the last-named course, and the announcement that Mr. Grinnell will act as instructor carries with it the assurance that ornithology will be presented in its most interesting phases, together with a keen appreciation of its salient points, such as has always characterized Mr. Grinnell's work. Laboratory work will consist of practice in the identification of specimens and preparation of study-skins; study of plumage structures; and dissections to demonstrate the gross anatomy of a typical bird.

Field excursions will be undertaken to acquaint students with the notes and habits of the more common California species. Lectures will be given on distribution, migration, moult classification, and economic relations of birds. The endeavor will thus be to conduct a practical course of especial value to teachers in Nature Study. Pacific Grove is a seaside resort on the southern shore of Monterey Bay, two miles west of Monterey. It is reached by the Coast Division of the Southern Pacific Railway, and is about four hours distant from San Francisco. The coast line at this point offers every variety of rocky and sandy shores, and the variety and abundance of marine life is exceptionally great. The Laboratory is located on a low bluff immediately overlooking the beach. In its immediate vicinity are exceptionally fine collecting grounds.

We earnestly commend the course to Club members, as well as others interested in general zoology.

Wm. Steinbeck and A. W. Johnson on an outing into San Benito County during March, collected an interesting series of eggs of the Golden Eagle, their take consisting of $\frac{2}{3}$ and 6-2.

AN INFORMATION COLUMN.

The editors take pleasure in presenting and endorsing the following excellent suggestions:—

SAN FRANCISCO, April 10, 1901.

To Members of the Cooper Club:—

"In a recent number of THE CONDOR (Vol. 3, No. 2) the editor's parenthetical remarks under Mr. Lyman Belding's inquiry as to the song powers of our Golden-crowned Sparrow, are most pertinent to our desire to see an 'Information Column' embodied in this publication."

"Only through some such medium can information necessary for even the partial completion of 'California Life Histories' be secured. We therefore hope this suggestion will receive the earnest consideration we now ask for it.

"The benefits to be derived by some such co-operation will become apparent when due thought is given to the enhanced value of notes taken at various points simultaneously as compared with those of some one individual taken sporadically in various localities, or in different years in the same locality. Under the former system the arrivals and departures, moults, nesting habits etc., would be observed under corresponding conditions instead of, as might be in the latter cases, under such varied conditions as could readily arise from climatic or food influences. Thus, May notes taken in, say, Los Angeles County during May of a dry year and those taken in Marin County during the corresponding month of a wet year would be valueless in their comparative deductions, as compared with such taken in those counties simultaneously.

"As many of us desire information with which to fill out gaps in our own observations, would it not be a good scheme to establish a column of information in THE CONDOR, for the purpose of mutually supplying information in answer to each other's queries? If more than one answer be received to any one question this department could be edited and condensed by the editor of the magazine in such a way as to bring forth facts and authorities and yet not occupy much space.

"There are many questions to which we can find no answers in ornithological libraries to which we may have access. Many of these answers should be found among notes collected by different members of the Club. Other questions to which no notes will apply may prove a stimulus to further and more detailed observation on the part of those interested, and the results in either case would be of benefit to all.—J. & J. W. MAILLIARD."

Since the Information Column is obviously capable of bringing into publication much valuable data, it will become a permanent feature of this magazine providing Club members take an active interest as should be the case. Queries will be numbered consecutively and subsequent replies will bear the numbers of the queries to which they may refer.

QUERIES.

1. What is the California winter range of the Cedar Waxwing?
2. What is the California summer range of the Cedar Waxwing, with notes as to breeding records?
3. Time of post-juvenile moult in the House Finch?
4. Time of disappearance of similarity to adult males in plumage of *Dryobates* and *Melanerpes*?
5. Any peculiarities noted during the past winter in the range of Clarke's Nutcracker?—JOHN W. MAILLIARD.
6. Does the Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) breed in California? — Hundreds of nests and eggs have been collected in this state and sent out to museums and collectors as of this species; and numerous articles have been written describing the nesting of the Rufous Hummingbird from different parts of the state, even south to San Diego. Nevertheless I feel almost confident that it is principally if not altogether the Allen Hummingbird (*S. allenii*) to which these accounts refer. All the nests of which I have personally known have been of the latter species. The fact that the former species occurs in migration in the same localities and at the same seasons, should make the collector all the more careful in his identifications. Will someone present an authentic instance of the nesting of the Rufous Hummingbird in California?—JOSEPH GRINNELL.

A Study of the Birds of Santiago Canyon.

MOLLIE BRYAN, ORANGE, CALIFORNIA.

IN A NOOK in Santiago Canyon, where foothills and mountains meet, nestling among the live oak trees is a little home, the ranch of Mr. J. E. Pleasants, where two bird lovers dwell, and where other bird lovers delight to come. Here may be found many of the birds of both mountain and plain.

In days past the Bald Eagle was a common visitant, and the California Condor was almost as plentiful as the Turkey Vulture is now. Many eagles have been killed by those who kept goats, but why the condor has departed, no one can tell. None have been seen here for twelve years or more.

It has never been my good fortune to see as many birds in one spot as can be found in this grove of trees, for here food and water are kept out for them, and protection afforded from all ordinary means of harm. In this 'bird's paradise' all life is spent beneath the trees. It is a luxury to lounge on couches or in hammocks and study the birds as they are enticed within the garden and grove. It is here that for more than two years the most of my study of the habits of birds has been made.

At this point we are over eleven hundred feet above the sea level, and in the shadow of Santiago Peak, the highest point of the Santa Ana range. After a night of refreshing sleep in the pure mountain air, we are awakened by a concert given by the residents of the grove. The Arkansas Kingbird, lark, sparrows, linnets, orioles, and Plain Titmice and the metallic call-note of the California Towhee may be heard. The woodpecker and the bluejay join in. An obligato solo is rendered by the Black-headed Grosbeak from high in a sycamore tree, and the Pasadena Thrasher sends out his song from the top of the sumach bush. The mocking bird at a distance, adds his glorious song to this unrivaled chorus.

One morning there was great excite-

ment under the arbor over the advent of a Violet-green Swallow, who alighted on the fence and remained so long all the household had ample opportunity to observe his beautiful colors and silky plumage. Later in the day, while lazily swinging in the hammock, glasses and note-book by my side, the domestic life of many of these birds has been studied. The linnet and California Towhee are on very intimate terms with my bird friends, and make their homes beneath the roof of the arbor, where our every movement may be seen.

The orioles festoon the vines of the porch with their dainty baskets of palm fiber. Anna's Hummingbird swings his dainty cradle beneath the arbor, the Black Phoebe plasters its mud nest to the frame of the arbor, darting above the table for a fly for his little ones. The California Thrasher, here familiarly called by its pretty Spanish name of "huita-coche" ventured, once only to build it loosely-woven home of coarse sticks within the limits of the grove. The Phainopepla perches on a fence post and with airy crest outlined against the sky, sings its sweetest melody. But we already know that a nest is being built in a sycamore tree close by.

A daily visit to the nests about the place is made. The gentle dove, whose frail nest failed her, readily accepted a strawberry box, wired in place, as a substitute. The Kingbird, Phainopepla's Pewee's, and both the Arizona Hooded and Bullock's Orioles' nests were all objects of interest. As we wander farther away the brilliant colors of the Louisiana Tanager illumine the landscape, though it is only for a time, as he passes on to the higher mountains to nest. The Pasadena Thrasher sits on the top of a small live-oak tree, pouring forth a sweet song and looking so awkward with its long

curved bill. He knows his nest is securely hidden from us. A Spurred Towhee sings his pretense of a song from a fence post, flitting from one perch to another, leading us on and on, till our feet turn naturally to the familiar path that leaps up the side canyon to the tank.

We follow a well-beaten trail through thick-growing bushes of sumach, Yerba Santa, mimulus and wild currant. The sages, as we brush by, fill the air with a delicious fragrance. We pass between beds of violets, nemophilas, purple night-shade and wild heliotrope. The bushes are festooned with the delicate trailing wild pea. Yuccas stand sentinel high on the mountain side. The fuchsia-flavored gooseberry is alive with the fairy forms of Allen's and the Rufous Hummingbirds. These bits of irridiscent make you think the lovely scarlet flowers have taken to themselves wings. As the canyon narrows in, the rugged sides project with ledges of rock filled with fossils, only waiting the tap of geologist's hammer. If this narrow gorge is a spot to fill the heart of the botanist or geologist with delight, what must it be to the bird student?

The cry of the bluejay accompanies us as he laughs over our failure to find his nest. The "Jacob, Jacob, Jacob," of the woodpecker is dying away in the distance. The Turkey Vultures soar majestically above us, while a Blue-grey Gnatcatcher flits through the bush at our elbow. From away up the mountain side comes ringing the wild free song of the Wren-Tit, a song as exclusively Californian as is the odor of the sages. It is here, where the overhanging ledges almost meet and the path drops into the rocky bed of the creek, passing from one boulder to another, that I found our Canyon Wren. Its surprise was so great, when it hopped out from a cranny of the rock and saw me, that it paused and looked me full in the face apparently noticing my color markings, as I was studying its own. Then with a harsh "squeel"

away up the rocky ledge it flitted, and was at once forgetful of the two pairs of glasses following its every movement. Its white throat gleamed in the sunlight as it darted from out a shady crevice and peered into every crack and seam, poking its curved bill among the mosses and lichens for the insects suited to its palate, but always careful to not betray its little home.

From here it was a quick, short climb up the slanting bed-rock of the stream, and we stood at the entrance of a basin, shaped like a great bowl with a triangular piece broken from one side. Between banks of ferns and yellow oxalis, through this crack in the bowl, we enter. The basin is perhaps seventy-five feet across and a tank, built to supply the ranch with water, stands in the center. The walls are of sedimentary rock with alternate layers of sand-stone and pebbles, in tilted strata. They are fringed above with overhanging cotyledons.

The retort-shaped nests of the Cliff Swallow fill the water-worn cavities near the top of the cliff. These were occupied, the chattering birds sailing above, and swooping down to express their disapproval of intruders. The constant supply of water here afforded brings all the birds known in this section. From a natural seat, high above the tank, and partially concealed by the overhanging wall, one may sit for hours and never a moment but rich entertainment is afforded.

The Flicker sounds a loud alarm as his wife comes dancing and bowing down the pipe that leads from the spring above, to take a drink. Although we became statues she heeds her lord's command, and does not venture. Valley Quail peer cautiously over the cliff and seeing us, slip noiselessly down to a pool below for their drink. Linnets, Wren-Tits, Bush-Tits, vireos and numberless others come and go, keeping our eyes and ears on the alert.

(to be continued).

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA.

To Cooper Club Members:

It has seemed to me that California is rather backward in ornithological work of a general nature. We have many local lists and a great quantity of biographical literature, but this is scattered about so widely, that it is difficult for a person to find out just what has already been done in any line. Colorado has inaugurated a system of compiling and indexing its bird literature in a State List, which seems to me comprehensive and useful. The original publication compiled by W.W.Cooke has been followed at intervals by supplements, and through these one is enabled to keep up with the progress of ornithology in Colorado. I believe that a similar system is greatly needed in California.

A STATE LIST.

I have therefore undertaken the compilation of a State List, including an index to all the available literature pertaining strictly to California Birds. This I realize is assuming a very difficult and tedious task, for California is ornithologically, without any doubt, the biggest state in the Union. But even if I cannot bring such a thing to publication myself, I shall keep the bibliography and citations systematically arranged, so that anyone else can take up the work where I leave off.

A good scheme presents itself for the determination of the known breeding ranges of the various species of birds in California. To this end, the Cooper Club has recently had printed a map of the State, drawn to show the streams, lakes, valleys and principal mountain ranges.

DISTRIBUTION MAPS.

These maps are 12x15 inches, and printed on paper that will take a light water-color wash. It is our idea that each active member should procure a quantity of these blank maps, and, devoting one map to each species, indicate all points where he knows that species to breed, *from personal experience*. I think the more active collectors would find this very interesting and instructive; and moreover, after a time the maps could be turned in to myself, or whoever had charge of the State List work, and from them could be compiled a set of maps to show our entire knowledge of the distribution of each species in summer within the State. I would suggest that at least 50 of these maps would be necessary, so as to include the usual breeding species of a section. One map might be used for several species, by choosing a different color for each. In or-

der to meet the expense of the plate and paper for these maps which do not properly come under the head of Club publications, it will be necessary to charge extra for them. They can be obtained at 2½ cents each (\$2.50 per 100) from the Club Business Manager, C. Barlow, Santa Clara.

In spite of the amount of field work already accomplished in California, there are many sections, which have been scarcely touched. The California side of the lower Colorado River offers a most inviting field for a season's collecting, for it has never been carefully worked.

INVITING FIELD-WORK.

Heermann has made almost the only records from there. I will venture to say that a single season's energetic collecting in the vicinity of old Fort Yuma, would add at least twenty species to the list of California birds. Other little known portions of the State, are the Pitt River region of north-eastern California; the Humboldt Bay region, and the Santa Lucia mountain region of southern Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties.

Our hypothetical list as constituted up to date numbers nearly a third as many species as the main list. Numerous birds have been accredited to California without sufficient evidence. As an example, we have two records of the Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*), but each has been challenged, as possibly being misidentified *Numenius hudsonicus*.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Our water birds are least known. Mr. Loomis of the California Academy of Sciences has done almost the only thorough work with them, but his base of observations has been chiefly at Monterey. We need information from numerous points along the Coast. Every Cooper Club member should go over his collection of water birds, and compile from it the dates and detailed accounts of the rarer captures. Be absolutely certain of your identifications, paying particular attention in this respect to the gulls, terns and waders. Send doubtful ones to some authority so as to be sure. Finally send these notes to Barlow for publication in THE CONDOR, so we can all have the benefit of your knowledge.

Respectfully,
JOSEPH GRINNELL.

Palo Alto, California, April 12, 1901.

BITING BIRD-LICE (MALLOPHAGA) OF PACIFIC COAST BIRDS.

To the Editor:—

In handling dead (and live) birds collectors will often notice small, flattened wingless, swift-running insects among the feathers, especially on those of the loral regions of the head. These insects are biting bird-lice (Mallophaga) and this reference to them is made in the hope

that bird collectors of this Coast will aid me in my studies of these parasites by collecting specimens of them. In the last few years I have been able to determine about 250 species of Mallophaga from North American birds, of which number I have described about 150 as new. The other 100 are assigned to species previously described from European birds. Most of the American birds from which these Mallophaga were taken were collected by Mr. Loomis of the California Academy of Sciences by zoological students of Stanford, or by myself, and have been chiefly Pacific Coast birds (from Alaska to Panama). A really good start has thus been made toward a knowledge of the Mallophaga of western birds. But more specimens are necessary, and I must trust to bird collectors for help in getting this material. One can hardly bring oneself to shoot birds for the sake of collecting Mallophaga, but birds taken for skins can be made to render a double offering to biological science in their death, if the ornithologist will take the little trouble necessary to collect their insect parasites.

All the Mallophaga from a single bird specimen should be dropped into a vial of 85% alcohol, with a label bearing the name of bird, date and locality of capture, the name of collector. Use a separate vial for each bird individual. One dram vials are the best, because smallest and cheapest. The vials should be well packed in cotton in firm wooden or tin boxes, and may be sent free by Well's Fargo Express, addressed to Entomological Museum, Stanford, California. Mark also, "Specimens, Donations" on the outside of the package.

I make this request now hoping that CONDOR readers may have it in mind this summer. As I shall be away from Stanford all summer, sending of specimens should be postponed until after September.

Sincerely yours,
V. L. KELLOGG.



PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED.

A NEW RACE OF THE GREAT BLUE HERON, WITH REMARKS ON THE STATUS AND RANGE OF *Ardea wardi*. By Frank M. Chapman. (Author's edition. Bulletin of the Am. Mus. of Nat. History, Vol. XIV, Article VIII pp. 87-90. Apl. 18, 1901.)

In the present paper Mr. Chapman separates the Great Blue Heron of the northwest coast region under the subspecific name of *Ardea herodias fannini*, the type coming from Queen Charlotte Island. The proposed subspecies differs from *Ardea herodias* in having "a shorter tarsus and with plumage throughout much darker, the upper parts being bluish slate-black instead of bluish gray; tibiae more feathered." It is suggested that this form in-

tergrades with true *herodias* further south.

The author mentions that in the examination of material incident to the description of *A. h. fannini*, the Florida heron, (*Ardea wardi*) has not been found to possess characters entitling it to specific rank, that there is nothing to indicate that the bird is other than a southern form of *Ardea herodias* and it is therefore suggested that it become *Ardea herodias wardi*. It is also proposed to extend the range of this southern form to the coast of Texas, whence specimens quite identical with the Florida birds have been taken.—C. B.

THOSE of an analytical turn of mind should 'rest' in the April *Auk*. There are subspecies to fit all tastes. Some them an Audubonian will accept, while others need a severely subjective state and a north light. It is worth remarking that the subjective enters into every science which has reached an advanced stage and it seems to have been used occasionally by enthusiasts in discriminating too closely related races. But this does not necessarily militate against subspecies properly used.

We cannot touch upon the articles of a general nature, but note the new races which are of interest to western ornithologists. Joseph Grinnell describes the varied thrush of the interior of Northern Alaska as *Hesperochichla neria meruloides*, reviving a name given by Swainson very probably to this form. He also separates the Aphelocoma of the Willamette Valley under the name *Aphelocoma californica immanis*. Francis J. Birtwell describes *Parus gambeli thayeri* from Albuquerque, N. M. Wilfred H. Osgood separates the white-tailed ptarmigan of Colorado from the northern form under the name *Lagopus leucurus altipetens*. He also describes *Anorthura hemalis helleri* from Kadiak, *Certhia familiaris zelotes* from the southern Cascade Mts. of Oregon and Sierra Nevada of California, and *Hylocichla aonalaeschke verecunda* which is distributed on the islands and coast of British Columbia and Southern Alaska. Descriptions of fifteen subspecies are reprinted from other sources. Those which have not appeared in THE CONDOR are: *Colymbus dominicus brachypterus* Chapman, Lower Rio Grande, Texas; *Arenaria morinella* (Linn) from Hudson Bay region and Northeast; *Asio accipitrinus mclilhennyi* Stone, Arctic barren grounds; *Sturnella magna argutula* Bangs, Florida; *Hirundo erythrogaster unalaschensis* (Gmelin) Unalaska; *Merula migratoria achrusteria* Batchelder, lowlands of Georgia and Carolina.

Personally we miss the colored plates which *The Auk* seems to have discontinued—and, we believe, to the detriment of the magazine.

W. K. F.

PACIFIC COAST AVIFAUNA NO II is a neatly composed "List of the Land Birds of Santa Cruz County, California." The author, R. C. McGregor, has not only drawn from his own field observations, but has also incorporated the notes of several others who have collected in the county. All available published accounts are made use of, as well; so that we may consider this list to enumerate all the species ever found within the county. The authorities quoted are always carefully cited in footnotes, while pleasing conservatism is shown in the treatment of doubtful records. The annotations are mostly brief, consisting of nesting and migration dates, comparative abundance, distribution, etc.

The nomenclature presented in this paper strikes one as too much of an improvement on the A. O. U. Checklist. Nearly every lately proposed change is adopted without question. The discrimination by name of such closely allied "genera" as *Nuttallornis* and *Horizopus* seems to us rather more of a burden than convenience. We also note that there is a confusing instability in the use of vernacular names. The millennium of permanency in nomenclature seems further off than ever!

The "Introduction" includes a brief but valuable account of the "Faunal Position of Santa Cruz Cruz County," by W. K. Fisher. *Avifauna No. II* is certainly an important addition to the ornithological literature of the State.—J. G.

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So staid an ornithologist as Richard C. McGregor has, for a time, forsaken his trays of bird skins, the scalpel and the rule to pay tribute to Cupid. On Wednesday, April 10, Mr. McGregor was united in marriage to Mrs. Edith M. French of Palo Alto, the ceremony being performed in the presence of a few intimate friends in San Francisco. Miss Josie Hart attended the bride, while Chas. M. Mannon acted as groomsman. Mr. McGregor's ornithological *confrères* extend to him and his bride a goodly measure of well wishes, and trust that his already active work in ornithology will be augmented by this acquisition of a helpmeet.

That the zealous ornithologist is sometimes misjudged by an unsympathetic public, Donald A. Cohen, the well-known Alameda ornithologist can testify. Toward the latter part of March, in company with a fish-basket of generous dimensions, Mr. Cohen and his brother, a camera artist, wheeled through the town of Haywards, *en route* to the aerie of a Prairie Falcon in the near-by hills. It so happens that the trout season in California opens on April 1, and a watchful peace officer, concluding that a fish-basket thus early in the

season augured evil, followed the naturalists a warm, lengthy and interesting chase, only to have the utility of the fish-basket to the oologist explained to him most courteously at the end of the chase!

Ornithologists will hail with satisfaction the announcement that the Smithsonian Institution will complete the Life Histories of North American Birds, begun by the late Major Chas. F. Bendire who completed two volumes before his death. Dr. W. L. Ralph, Honorary Curator of the Department of Oology and a close personal friend of Major Bendire, will have charge of the work and has issued requests for notes on the life history and nesting habits of A. O. U. species and subspecies No. 514 to 635 inclusive, which will embrace the third volume of this superb work. Dr. Ralph's field experience doubtless renders him the most available person to take up the uncompleted work of Major Bendire, and he should be accorded every assistance by field workers in the West who possess, in some cases, almost exclusive notes concerning many little-known species.

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THE PROPER NAME FOR THE KADIAK
SAVANNA SPARROW.

Bonaparte's *Passerculus anthinus* is from "Kadiak, Russian America." Compte Rendu, Dec. 1853, p. 920. It is compared with *Passerculus alaudinus*, described on p. 918 from "California," as being very similar but with more slender beak, head suffused with yellow, and beneath pale rufescent, more spotted. It has been suggested that the localities of *anthinus* and *alaudinus* might have been transposed (Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, Hist. N. Am. Bds. I, 1874, p. 539, foot-note.); but this idea is refuted by Ridgway (Proc. U. S. N. M. VII, 1884, p. 517, foot-note).

However inapplicable Bonaparte's description may be to the race breeding on Kadiak Island, the fact that the type ostensibly came from there seems to make it desirable to use Bonaparte's name instead of *xanthophrys* proposed by me in the CONDOR (III, Jan. 1901, p. 21). The Kadiak Savanna Sparrow therefore becomes *Ammodramus sandwichensis anthinus* (Bonaparte).

JOSEPH GRINNELL.

THE CONDOR.

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This issue of The Condor was mailed May, 15.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Bird Protection Bill The sweeping Bird Protection Bill projected in the recent California legislature by the Cooper Ornithological Club, and known as Senate Bill 114, has failed to become a law. It was reasonably expected that a bill of this nature, having successfully buffeted the adversities of both houses of the legislature, would receive the governor's sanction and consequently become a law, but in this instance bird protectionists were doomed to disappointment and upon Governor Gage alone rests the odium of relegating California to its former position of a non-protective bird state.

This was the first concerted effort to place California on a bird protection plane, and that all concerned with the bill labored faithfully and well is a matter of general knowledge. The bill, with but little substitution, passed both houses of the legislature and few doubted that the governor would add his signature and approval to the proposed statute, the sole possible effect of which would have been for public good. However, for some inscrutable reason, the bill was permitted to suffer the "pocket veto." Thus it becomes apparent that California's governor has no appreciation of measures which savor of the aesthetic. He has evidently not kept apace with the work of bird protectionists in the United States, and considers such movements but lightly if at all.

To bewail the short-sightedness of the governor at this juncture is a waste of both words and energy. The fact remains, that the Cooper Club through its able member, Senator E. K. Taylor, prepared and carried to success-

ful completion the only thorough bird protection bill which has yet been considered by the California legislature. Practically the entire credit for the successful handling of the bill rests with Senator Taylor, whose legislative work was marked throughout by a combination of brilliancy, energy and conscientiousness. His effective efforts not only carried the bill through the Senate but practically through the Assembly as well, and to him the bird protection forces of California may well look for a legislative leader.

The failure of the bill may be attributed to a variety of sources, the true one being best explained by the governor providing he could be persuaded to become communicative. The most plausible inference is that the governor feared to act in the face of the considerable opposition developed by the bill in the legislature. This opposition, it should be understood, was but the natural outcome of placing such a sweeping bill before a legislative body, many members of which had little or no idea of the scope of the proposed measure, if indeed they could give a comprehensive definition of bird protection. In the face of such conditions Senator Taylor's work is the more remarkable.

The killing of this measure permits vandals to slaughter songsters and non-game birds as before, and the hordes of ignorant foreigners may continue to snare all manner of wild birds, which vicious and destructive practice has already been pointed out in the columns of this journal. It is indeed lamentable that the chief executive of a state, rich in its bird life as is California, should disregard a plea backed by scientists, fruit-growers and the public alike. The result is disappointing, but bird-protectionists may still accomplish much valuable local work, and recruit their forces for another effort two years hence.

Several months having elapsed since the initial numbers of at least two bird magazines were given the public, with no subsequent issues to bridge the gap, we may naturally infer that January has proven an unpropitious month in which to launch such publications, or at least this assumption seems applicable to the two journals in question. Such occurrences—all too frequent of late years—tend to shake public confidence in the stability of new magazines, while publishers may justly reserve the "glad hand" until they know whether their "congratulations" are to concern one lonely number,—or more.

It is true that every magazine must have its beginning, and all publishing efforts, if they be characterized by regularity of issue, become entitled to the confidence and patronage of the ornithological fraternity. Numerous magazines are unpretentiously piling up volumes to their credit, and we may cite the *Wilson Bulletin*, *The Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society* and *Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology* as examples of publications which are accomplishing praiseworthy work in their given fields. Ornithologists, and even the much-abused bibliographer, are ready to

concede the right of existence to any periodical which will appear with reasonable regularity and promptness, but both patronage and sympathy are largely lacking for the "slow," magazine, while the tendency is unmistakable that it should be entirely withheld from the "one-number" class of bird journals.



Official Minutes of Northern Division.

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY.

The Division met at the residence of E. H. Skinner, San Jose, Cal. Jan. 12, with thirteen members present and M. P. Anderson as a visitor. The program of the evening was first given as follows:—Talk, "The Distribution of Certain Bird Races in California" by Joseph Grinnell, illustrated by drawings; Talk, "Introduced Birds in the Hawaiian Islands," R. C. McGregor, exemplified by skins. Five previously proposed members were made active members, as follows:—F. H. Fowler, R. E. Snodgrass and J. F. Illingworth of Palo Alto; J. S. Burcham of Stanford University and M. P. Anderson of Menlo Park. The annual election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Joseph Grinnell; Vice President, H. R. Taylor; Secretary, C. Barlow; Treasurer, D. A. Cohen.

At the juncture of Mr. Emerson's retiring from the chair Mr. H. R. Taylor arose and presented him with a testimonial from the Division for his noteworthy administration. The following names were proposed for active membership: Chas. M. Mannon and C. A. Love of San Francisco and A. C. Herre of Palo Alto. Mr. Emerson addressed the meeting urging the appointment of a Bird Protection Committee within the Club, suggesting fifteen members from each Division. The motion was passed and a complete list of committee men will be found on another page.

Resolutions were passed combining the office of business manager with that of the editor, who is empowered to collect and expend all Club funds. The meeting now adjourned to a banquet where addresses were delivered by ex-president Emerson on 'A Retrospect of 1900' and by President Grinnell on 'The Outlook for 1901.'

An adjourned meeting of the Club was held on the morning of Jan. 13 with nine members in attendance. A Program Committee was created, to consist of three members. On motion the acting president was constituted Executive Committee of the Club. A committee of three was appointed to draft a new constitution and by-laws, it being suggested that the annual dues be made \$2, beginning with 1902. Other committees were retained. The president made the following announcements:—Committee on Constitution, R. C. McGregor (Chairman); E. H. Skinner and T. J. Hoover. Program Committee, J. O. Snyder (Chairman), W. K. Fisher and F. H. Fowler; Editor and Business Manager, C. Barlow; Associate Editor, Walter K. Fisher.

MARCH.

The bi-monthly meeting was held at the home of W. Otto Emerson at Haywards, March 2 with eighteen members present and Joseph Grinnell presiding. Under the election of active members the following were added to the roll: Chas. M. Mannon, San Francisco; C. A. Love, San Francisco; A. C. Herre, Palo Alto; R. N. Diggles, Palo Alto; Prof. Vernon L. Kellogg, Stanford University; Geo. Coleman, Stanford; Leon Hottel, Napa; Verna Dresser, Pismo; Wm. N. Ingram, Pacific Grove; H. M. Holland, San Diego; Chase Littlejohn, Redwood City; H. R. Johnson, Palo Alto; Geo. H. Sharpe, Vacaville; M. French Gilman, Banning; W. F. Dean, Three Rivers; Prof. W. E. Ritter, Berkeley; Miss Ellen Mathews, Stanford; Miss Lillian M. Julien, Yreka; Miss Bertha L. Chapman, Oakland; Miss Bertha F. Herrick, Oakland and Miss Helen Swett, Alameda.

Chas. M. Mannon was invited to address the meeting on the proposition of the Club becoming incorporated. On motion a committee was ordered named by the president to draft suitable resolutions and to have matters in readiness to proceed with the work of incorporation at a special meeting to be called by the president. In anticipation of this action, the constitution committee was discharged. Mr. Mannon was extended a vote of thanks for his lucid presentation of the matter.

The program of the evening was taken up. A paper on "Two Years with Mexican Birds" by E. H. Skinner was read. Walter K. Fisher gave a talk on "Life Zones," and was followed with remarks by Walter E. Bryant. A paper entitled "Eggs from American Barn Owls in Captivity" was read by Donald A. Cohen. Mr. Grinnell read a paper entitled "Extracts from Publications Concerning Early Californian Ornithology." On motion the meeting adjourned, to meet next at Stanford University on May 4.

MAY.

An open meeting was held in the lecture-room at Stanford University May 4, with large attendance. Jno. O. Snyder delivered a brief talk styled "A Day With the Birds of Tampico, Mexico." Robert E. Snodgrass spoke at length on "The Galapagos Islands," dealing with their general features. Edmund Heller followed with a talk on "Galapagos Birds."

A committee was appointed to prepare a draft of new constitution to be presented at the next meeting. The names of Miss Ora Boring of Palo Alto, Willis H. Jackson of Pescadero, H. R. Noack of Berkeley, J. S. Appleton of Simi and P. C. Mitchell of Downey were proposed for active membership. A communication from Frank S. Daggett recommending the formation of chapters in the Club was read and favorably received. The July meeting will be held at Santa Clara.

C. BARLOW, Secretary.



Official Minutes of Southern Division.

FEBRUARY.

The regular monthly meeting was held Feb. 27 at the residence of Frank S. Daggett at Pasadena. Ten members were present, with Dr. F. Grinnell as a visitor. The president announced the following persons as members of the Bird Protection Committee from this Division: C. A. Moody, Dr. Garrett Newkirk, Roth Reynolds, Geo. S. Chambliss, Dr. G. V. Coffin, Miss Mollie Bryan, Mrs. J. E. Pleasants, Mrs. A. C. Wilson, Evan Davis, Edw. Simmons, J. Eugene Law, B. W. Hahn, H. J. Leadland, Lee Chambers and A. M. Ingersoll.

The name of W. Scott Way of Cucamonga, Cal. was proposed for active membership. On motion the president was authorized to voice the sentiments of the meeting with respect to improving the present cover of THE CONDOR, and to communicate with the Northern Division in this regard. A paper entitled "Two Amusing Incidents" was read by A. I. McCormick. After discussion the meeting adjourned.

MARCH.

The regular meeting was held March 30 at the residence of B. W. Hahn in Pasadena, President Daggett presiding and nine members present. Miss Moody was present as a visitor. W. Scott Way of Cucamonga was elected to active membership in the Club. The names of A. M. Jamison of Santa Monica and Dr. J. H. McBride of Pasadena were proposed for membership. A communication from the Northern Division relative to contemplated incorporation of the Club was discussed and Messrs. Hahn, Moody, Conant, Daggett and McCormick were appointed a committee to represent the Southern Division.

Geo. S. Chambliss of Altadena, through Mr. Daggett, tendered the Division the use of a number of valuable works on ornithology provided a proper custodian be appointed. Upon motion the offer was accepted and the thanks of the Division ordered extended Mr. Chambliss, together with the request that he select a permanent custodian to carry out his wishes. Mrs. C. A. Moody read a very interesting paper entitled 'Bird Notes', being observations of bird-life gleaned about her home in Los Angeles. Two papers from the Northern Division were read, and after a repast, the meeting adjourned.

A. I. McCORMICK, Secretary pro tem.

APRIL.

The April meeting was held at the residence of F. S. Daggett, Pasadena. President Daggett called the meeting to order with seven members present. Mr. J. E. Pleasants and Fordyce Grinnell were present as guests.

In absence of the Secretary, H. S. Swarth acted as Secretary pro tem. A. M. Jamison of Santa Monica and Dr. J. H. McBride of Pasadena were elected to active membership, and the names of Henry Gray, Rialto, Cal., Nelson

Carpenter, Escondido, Cal., R. C. Wueste, 5th and Brook street, San Diego, Cal. and A. Stert, 578 N. Marengo Ave., Pasadena were proposed by Mr. Daggett, to be acted upon at the next meeting.

Mr. Daggett exhibited skins of Barlow's Chickadee and the Point Pinos Junco, and interesting discussion followed. After partaking of light refreshments the meeting adjourned, to meet next month at the residence of Burnell Franklin, South Pasadena.

H. S. SWARTH, Secretary pro tem.



NEWS NOTES.

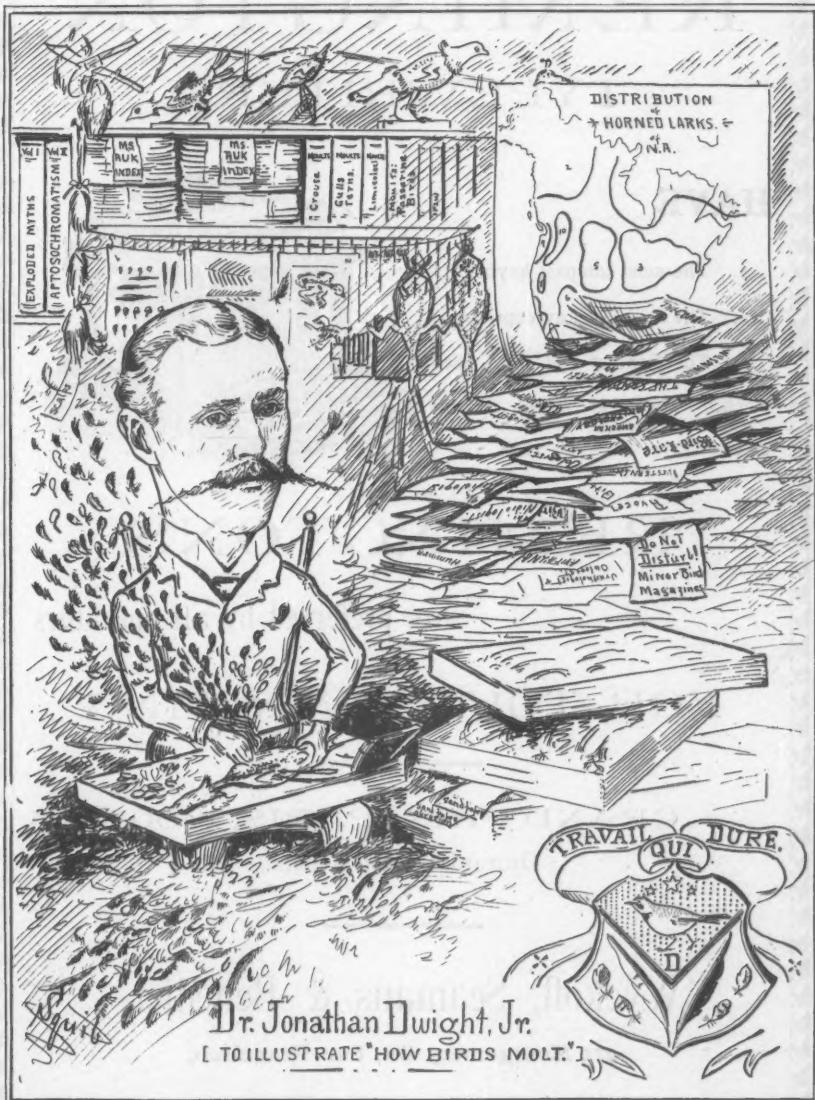
Wm. W. Price, M. A. has issued the usual neat prospectus of his summer camp, which will be situated at Glen Alpine Springs in the Sierra Nevadas from June 15 to September 15. This method of studying zoology is the most delightful imaginable and members of the Cooper Club who have the summer months at their disposal, cannot employ their time to better advantage, nor more pleasantly, than by joining Mr. Price's summer camp.

We are pleased to note the growth of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, which held its second annual meeting in Omaha on Jan. 12. The programme shows 22 titles, embracing many varied and interesting ornithological topics. These papers will appear shortly in the 100-page "Proceedings" of the Union and should prove valuable and interesting to the public. The Union now has 64 active and 33 associate members, and is another example of the ability and utility of state ornithological clubs.

American Ornithology, which began publication in January last under the supervision of the well-known dealer, Chas. K. Reed, shows a steady improvement. The April and May issues being examples of fine typographical art and of a publication announced as being devoted to "the home and school." Mr. Reed has seemingly created a field of his own and is filling it in a most interesting and praiseworthy manner. The plates are in every way of unusual merit, and the magazine should be accorded the support it deserves. Worcester, Mass. 50 cents a year.

The severe winter in the mountains of California has afforded many records of the Western Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes v. montanus*) for various parts of California. It has thus far been recorded for the winter from Santa Clara, San Geronimo, Napa, Los Angeles, Palo Alto, Stockton, Haywards, Pescadero and Santa Rosa and has doubtless been distributed quite freely over the State. The Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) has also been abundant in the valleys Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties, having been driven from the Coast Range mountains temporarily by erratic snow-storms.

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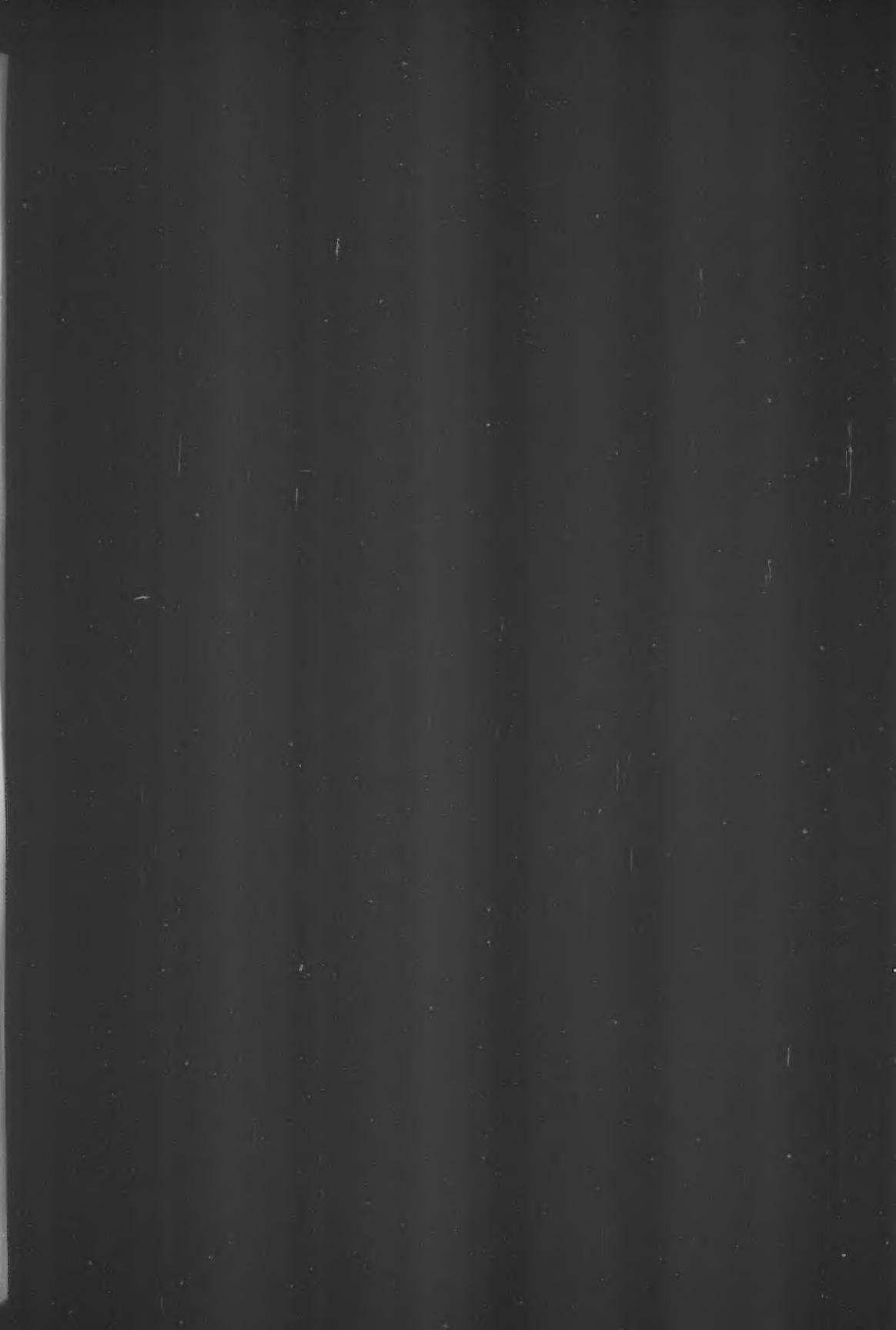
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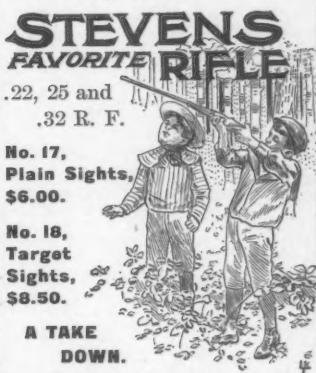
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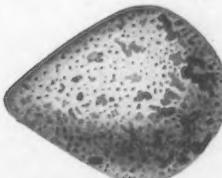
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